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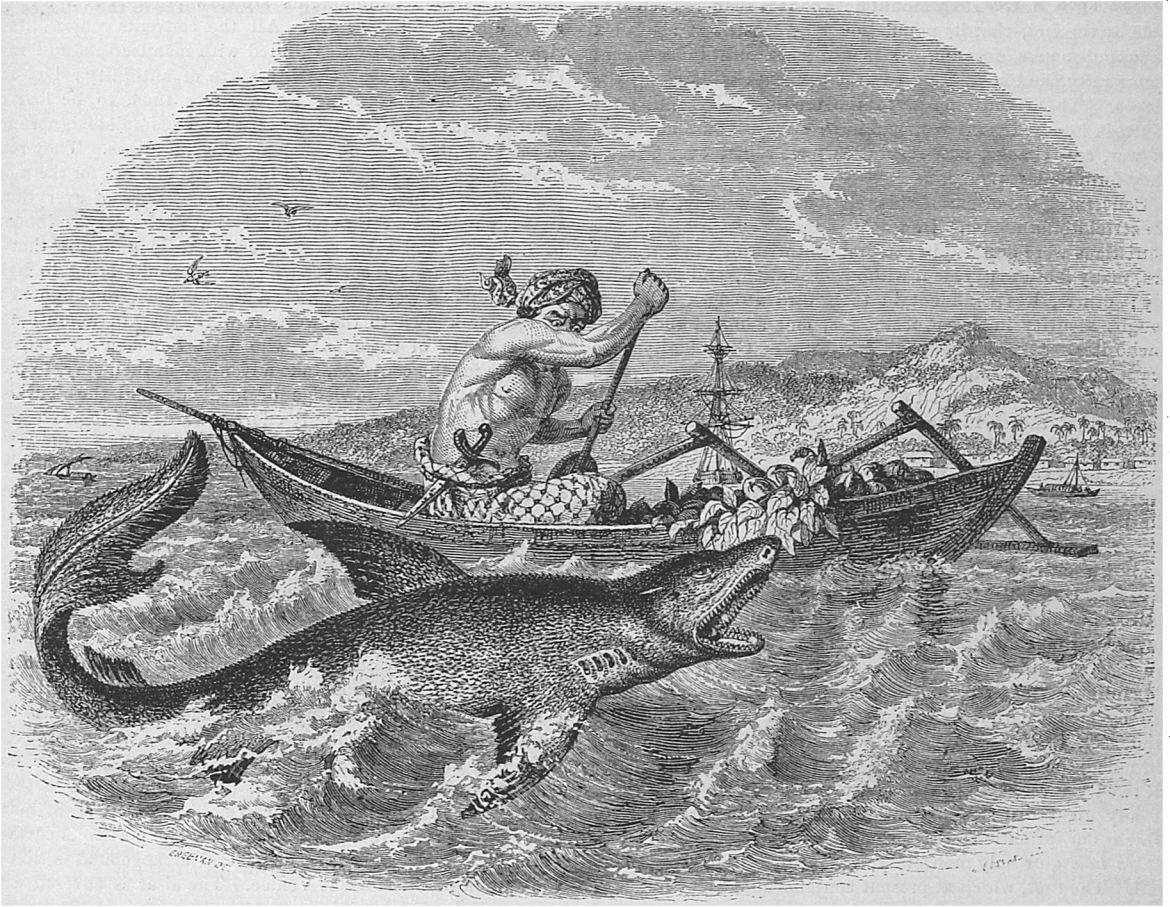
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THE JAVANESE AND THE SHARK.

SIR JOHN BARROW, who accompanied Sir George Staunton on his embassy to China, published a volume, in 1806, giving an account of his observations in Cochin China, which is full of interesting details regarding that as well as other countries of the southern hemisphere. Gifted, as he was, with nearly all the qualities which fit a man for travelling with profit to himself and the world at large, his descriptions of men and things could hardly fail to be interesting. The volume has been, however, so long out of print, that, in all probability, few of the young generation of readers are familiar with it. His statements respecting the Spice Islands of the Pacific, under Dutch sway, are particularly deserving attention. We have selected for engraving an incident which he describes as having occurred while lying off Java, and we shall let him describe it in his own words:—

appeared to be still more so, who happened at that moment to be astern of the ship, paddling his canoe, with a load of fruit and vegetables. His apprehension lest the wounded shark, in rolling and plunging, and lashing the water with its fins and tail, should overturn his little skiff, which was not much larger than the animal itself, his exertions to get out of its reach, and the marks of terror that were visible on his countenance, struck our fellow-traveller, Alexander, so forcibly, that, though of momentary duration, he caught with his pencil a spirited sketch, which, having the merit at least of being a true representation of a Javanese canoe, with its paddle and bamboo outrigger, was considered as not unworthy of being put into the engraver's hands. The shark, being killed with a harpoon, was then hoisted on deck and opened. The contents of its stomach formed a mass of



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"In no other part of the world do I recollect to have observed such shoals of sharks as are constantly prowling near the shore at Anjerie, attracted, no doubt, by the offals that float down the river, or are thrown upon the beach. When on board the "Hindustan" at this anchorage, I hooked one of these voracious animals from the stern gallery, in doing which, however, I had a very narrow escape from being dragged by it into the sea. No sooner did the fish put the hook in its jaw, than, plunging towards the bottom, he drew his line to its full stretch, which, being entangled in the railing of the gallery, swept away at once a great part of the balustrade. In the rapidity with which the rope ran out, a coil of it got round my arm; but just as I was forced among the wreck, the shark, by darting back to the surface, slackened the rope sufficiently to enable me to disengage my arm and get clear. Greatly as I was alarmed at this accident, a poor Javanese

such magnitude and variety as can scarcely be conceived. It consisted, among other articles, of the complete head of a female buffalo, a whole calf, a quantity of entrails and of bones, and large fragments of the upper and under shells of a considerable-sized turtle. The length of the shark was ten feet eight inches."* Sir John gives a horrible account of the treatment of the Chinese settlers in Java by the Dutch colonists who ruled them. Finding it impossible to induce them to consume opium and other foreign products in quantities sufficiently large to fill the coffers of the importers, a pretended conspiracy was trumped up; in 1740, the Chinese chiefs were horribly tortured, and the whole of the Chinese population, including the women and children, to the number of twelve thousand, were massacred in cold blood.

* "A Voyage to Cochin China, in the years 1792 and 1793." pp. 162-3.